c) Introduction of Designs, Sample Production and Market Testing.

Weavers of Barakai RV (Fazal II) in Mardan District will receive cartoons or colour charts indicating design and colour combinations. Weavers participating in the project will be contracted to produce designs according to the ARIN specification using silk produced by Pakistani producers (but reeled and spun at the Sericulture Department, Peshawar).

Samples produced will be marketed to wholesalers, Interior Decorators, Dressmakers, Fashion Designers and Architects both in Pakistan and UK/Europe. Sales to retailers and consumers will be done through direct marketing and cultural fairs, exhibitions again both in Pakistan and UK/Europe.

d) Long-Term Assistance

Assistance to silk weavers participating in the programme during Phases I and II will be terminated when producers are willing to purchase their silk and be able to deal directly with markets to which ARIN has provided exposure.

As assistance to the silk weavers is terminated, new weavers will be absorbed by the programme.

From 1989 onwards, the project infrastructure in Pakistan is expected to be self-financing from revenue of sales in Pakistan, UK/Europe.

6. DESCRIPTION OF BENEFICIARIES

a) Primary beneficiaries will be AR's who are at present unskilled in the art of silk weaving but have some knowledge and skill in carpet weaving. The aim of the project will be to help:

i) Paraplegics/amputees and disabled who with sufficient training would be perfectly capable of weaving plain and striped silk.

ii) Women in purdah who are required to remain all day in the home.

b) Secondary Beneficiaries would be older men and women who still have the skill and knowledge of weaving silk. For example those Uzbeks who were born in Samarkhand, Bokhara or Tashkent or who were engaged in the silk weaving workshops in northern Afghanistan. Their experience will be utilised in assisting the training of the younger AR's, particularly in the art of dyeing and 'finishing' the silk cloth.

7. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Arin will submit to the UNHCR sub office in Peshawar:-

a) Quarterly reports including financial statements.

b) Annual Report which will be sent to UNHCR and the funders.

c) The Project Director will visit Peshawar twice a year to ensure that the project is correctly implemented.

8. FUNDING

ARIN is looking to UNHCR to provide funding for a vehicle, interpreter and weavers salaries, raw materials and equipment and marketing costs. Applications are being made by ARIN to appropriate funding bodies in the UK to cover the cost of 3 expatriate workers, one of whom will be based in the UK to look after marketing and the continuation of funding.

9. EQUIPMENT AND RAW MATERIALS

For weaving both Ikat and plain/striped cloth, the equipment required is a simple loom and shuttle made from wood. Initially the project would start by producing simple designs on looms 36" in width because this measurement enables the weaver to pass the shuttle backwards and forwards by hand easily. At a later stage wider looms which are a little more complicated to operate would be introduced to produce material 48" in width which is more suitable for the export market. Barakai camp is situated 3 hours east of Peshawar in Barakai/Mardan district and is close to SWAT, a mountainous and well wooded area in the NWFP. Wood therefore is easily obtainable from the mills in the villages surounding the camp. In addition, wood is also available in Peshawar - carpentry workshops abound and to produce a simple loom would cost approx. Pak. Rs 200.

10. DYEING AND FINISHING

Silk is available in the undyed stage, so for dyeing the plain silk cloth and yarn for the striped cloth, stainless steel vats of about 15-20 gallon capacity are necessary. These are available in the Peshawar bazaar. As colour is absolutely critical in marketing the finished silk cloth, so supervision and control of dyeing is of prime importance. Therefore at the initial stage of the project all dyeing of yarn will have to take place in Peshawar, under the supervision of the Project Manager and then transported to the camp to the weavers. Dyes that are used to dye the wool in carpets can be used to dye silk and aciddyes in powderform are available in the Peshawar bazaar. Dyeing assistants are ACETIC ACID and SALT and soft water is desirable for developing good quality colours. (Peshawar has hard water but a water softener can be fitted to the water tap). Controllable heat is necessary but both an open fire and a gas ring would be acceptable.

Cloth usually benefits from wet finishing so dyes therefore have to be wet fast. The equipment needed for this would be preferably a tank wide enough to hold the cloth rolled rather than crumpled, and a frame on which the wet cloth is pinned. Heavy irons are needed for the final finishing press.

Ready spun silk yarn from the cocoon of the BOMBYX MORI moth is readily available through the Department of Sericulture, part of the Pakistan Forestry Department based in Peshawar. Alternatively it can be bought direct from Pakistni cocoon producers living in the Bannu area. It is undyed and pale beige or cream in colour and is available in skeins or hanks. When in sericulture, silk worms are brought too close together, they may combine to build communal cocoons. Such cocoons when reeled produce a thread with 'slubs' at intervals known as 'Douppion'. These cocoons are available

from the Sericulture Department in Peshawar and the Deputy Director of the Sericulture Department, Mr. Mir Baz Khan has agreed in writing for his department to reel and spin the silk thread according to ARIN's specification. A fixed price of 300 Pak. Rs per kilo of silk yarn has been agreed and put in writing.

11. THE MARKET

The war in Afghanistan has brought large numbers of expatriates to Peshawar. Engaged in working for Aid organisations, they have replaced the groups of overland travellers who used to pass through Peshawar en route for India and Kathmandu. The main hotels - Deans, Jan 's, Green's, Galaxy and the Pearl InterContinental are periodically filled with journalists, photographers, camera crews and medical teams. During their stay in Peshawar, many venture down into the bazaar to purchse souvenirs of their stay.

There is also a rising affluent Pakistani middle class. The Pakistan Government has increased its Army, Police and Drug squads in this sensitive area. Peshawar is only 20 miles from the Afghan border. Many Pakistanis who fill these posts come from Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad and they bring with them their wives and families.

Initially woven silk fabric of 200 denier or more (suitable for furnishing material or dress fabric will be produced. An Interior Decorator's called DESAYON AND DAVID HICKS, in Karachi are using thick woven silk cloth at 200 RS per metre as wallpaper in some of the Aga Khan Foundation buildings. In addition they are also responsible for decorating hotels and embassies in Islamabad, and have expressed and interest in the ARIN silk project - particularly in the Ikat.
From the silk woven by the AR's, small accessory items could be made by the Danish Sewing Project such as scarves, belts, evening bags and sewing kits; items that will appeal to women from both East and West.

a) Outlets - Pakistan

Ockenden Venture well known for its work in the UK with Vietnames Boat People and Tibetan Refugees have been running an embroidery project for Pushtun women in various refugee camps since 1984. In December 1985, Lobsang and Yangtchen Yeshi of Ockenden opened 'OUTLET VENTURE' a shop situated on the Saddar Road near Dean's and Jan's Hotel in the Benevolent Fund Building. Outlet Venture sells refugee handicrafts produced as a result of the various Income Generation Projects e.g. quilts from Ockenden's own project, dresses, tablecloths from the Danish Sewing Project, leather goods from the Salvation Army, honey from the UNHCR bee project.

The Yeshis have been approached and have agreed to sell the silk when it is produced. Grethe Lauritsen of the Danish Sewing Project has agreed to purchase the silk and use it for making the small accessory items already mentioned.

Another shop called 'THREADLINES' which has branches in both Peshawar and Islamabad selling Pakistani and Afghan handicrafts would also provide an outlet for the silk as well as Afghan refugee shop keepers in Sadder bazaar who are keen to stock the silk cloth.

b) Outlets - UK / Europe

The following organisations have been contacted in the UK:-

i) Textile Department, Central School of Art

ii) Liberty's Oriental Department

iii) Allans of Duke Street, London W1

iv) Harrods, Knightsbridge

Allans of Duke Street is one of the most prestigeous fabric shops in London importing large quantities of sophisticated finished silks largely produced by China and Korea and processed and printed in France and Italy. However, Mr Allan also works with individual Asian craftsmen and imports Ikat silk of the Uigur weavers of Outer Mongolia. Although there is a problem of competition from Chinese silk at £3.50 per metre, Mr Allan felt it would be possible to find a place in the market for silk made by Afghan Refugees depending on two factors in the marketing approach; NOVELTY and PUBLICITY. From his experience of selling Uigur Ikat without publicity in its gaudy traditional colours, odd widths and fairly high price he felt that an Ikat and plain silk project would prove to be very successful. Mr Allan commented that the silk market has in fact hardly changed over several decards; there is no such thing as a good or bad colour at any time - people buy them all. The '3 D's', 'Diana', (Princess of Wales), 'Dynasty', and 'Dallas' have increased the sale of glamourous luxury fabrics.

Liberty's Oriental Department have long been famous for their range of handwoven Indian and Thai silks which range in price from £9 - £17 per metre. Ikat silk would definately have a place here, and Liberty's would almost certainly take care of the publicity.

To carry out further market research, ARIN will vist the Fashion Fabric exhibition held at Olympia, London between 7 - 9 October. Here, leading established textile designers will display their designs for weave and print.

12. PUBLICITY

Publicity is crucial to the success of the marketing of the silk and constant advertising in Peshawar would be necessary as a result of the high turnover of foreign personnel. Although Ockenden publicised the opening of thier shop in December, 1985 unless hotels are supplied constantly with posters or brochures for their visitors then the shop runs the risk of not being visited. For this reason ARIN would produce:

a) Small brochures or cards displaying samples of silk available at Outlet Venture together with a map showing how to get ther. These could be placed in hotel bedrooms in all hotels and could be easily replaced by the management should guests remove them.

b) Posters which could be displayed in hotel lobby's and the London Bookshop.

c) To launch the finished product, sales and exhibitions could be held in prominent locations such as The American Club or The Pearl Continental.

13. EXPORTING

The Pakistan Export/Import Department has been contacted and there are no restrictions on exporting silk. Pakistan International Airways quote a price of 26 Pak. Rs for goods weighing over 250 kg. For importing silk into the UK there is no licence necessary but import duty at 7.2% and VAT at 15% will be charged.

PROJECT PROPOSAL

"THE SILK ROUTE"

SILK WEAVING PROJECT FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES

PART 1

1.	COUNTRY	PAKISTAN
2.	PROJECT LOCATION	NORTH WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE
3.	PROJECT TITLE	"THE SILK ROUTE"
4.	STARTING DATE	MAY 1987
5.	PROPOSED TERMINATION	3 YEARS
6.	IMPLEMENTING AGENCY	AFGHAN REFUGEE INFORMATION NETWORK (UK)

INTRODUCTION

1. BRIEF HISTORY

2. REASONS FOR STARTING THE PROJECT

3. DESCRIPTION OF ASSISTANCE

4. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

5. PHASE I - PREPARATION AND INITIAL PRODUCTION

6. DESCRIPTION OF BENEFICIARIES

7. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

8. FUNDING

9. EQUIPMENT AND RAW MATERIALS

10. DYEING AND FINISHING

11. THE MARKET

12. PUBLICITY

13. EXPORTING

APPENDIX "IKATS OF UZBEKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN" BY BERNARD DUPEGNE

INTRODUCTION

Afghan Refugee Information Network (ARIN), based in London UK was started in 1980 by a small group of people who had worked in or studied Afghanistan. Run at the moment by volunteers, ARIN is a non-political organisation which produces a quarterly newsletter with a world-wide circulation and raises money for medical and educational aid. ARIN is on the point of receiving charitable status and has a managerial committee with experience of aid work, Asian textiles and life of Afghans living in Pakistan and Afghanistan. ARIN has a committment to supporting the silk weaving project of Turkomen rufugees.

Harriet Sandys, a member of ARIN, first became interested in the arts and crafts of Afghanistan during a visit to the country as a tourist in 1977. Since 1980 she has worked as an oriental carpet restorer and dealer in London and has travelled throughout the NWFP of Pakistan collecting carpets and embroideries for exhibitions in the UK. During these visits she has become increasingly aware of the problems facing the Turkomen refugees with regard to the marketing of their carpets. Between 1982 and 1986, Harriet Sandys has made a total of six visits to the NWFP of Pakistan and has carried out considerable research into setting up an ikat and plain silk weaving project for Afghan refugees.In September 1986 Harriet Sandys visited Kashgar Xinjang Province, China to carry out further research into Ikat weaving.

In October 1985 and February 1986 she visited Fazel Camp II (part of the Barakai refugee village near Mardan) to ascertain there were Afghan refugees who wished to start weaving silk as an alternative to weaving carpets. On the visit in February she was accompanied by the Deputy Director of the Sericulture Department, Peshawar, Mr. Mir Baz Khan who brought with him samples of silk cocoons and spun silk yarn. The refugees were shown the samples and interviewed. Many of the older generation, (who were now refugees for a second time in their lives having fled from Uzbekistan in the early 20's) confirmed that they had a knowledge of silk weaving. One Turkoman had actually worked in an Ikat workshop in northern Afghanistan during the 1970's. Overall there was enormous enthusiasm to start weaving silk, and the sericulture department in Peshawar is keen to supply the silk because it will assist the Pakistani cocoon producers in Bannu who will have a more secure market for their cocoons. Afghan shopkeepers who sell Afghan handicrafts in Peshawar are also keen to stock the silk cloth, because the striped silk once woven in Mazar-i-Sharif for chapans sells well to tourists. (As a result of the war, the silk is no longer woven in Afghanistan.)

This project would be complimentary to other projects already operating in Peshawar, for example Ockenden Venture marketing centre of Afghan Refugee Handicrafts and the Dacaar Sewing Project. The aim of ARIN will be to implement a small pilot phase development lasting between 3 and 6 months, to provide income generation, to employ disabled refugees and women in purdah. Finally it will help keep alive an ancient traditional skill which has been handed down the generations for over 1,000 years and which now, as a result of the war, shows signs of disappearing for ever.

1. BRIEF HISTORY

There are at present large numbers of Turkomen, Tadjiks and Uzbeks from the northern provinces of Afghanistan now living in refugee camps throughout the North-West Frontier Province of Pakistan. These groups have a tradition of weaving, not only of carpets and rugs but also of silk. Silk weaving in Central Asia dates back more than 1,000 years and was introduced into this area from Japan and China via the Silk Route. Uzbeks from the towns of Samarkhand, Bokhara and Tashkent once produced beautiful woven 'Ikat' silk which was used to make 'Chapans' the long over coats worn by both men and women in that region. The finest silk 'chapans' were presented as gifts and were highly prized possessions.

During the 1920's and 1930's, many Uzbeks, Tadjiks and Turkomen crossed the Amu Darya (oxus) river to seek refuge in northern Afghanistan as a result of a famine caused indirectly by the Russian occupation of the region. They brought with them their skill and knowledge of silk weaving and continued their trade, albeit at a reduced rate.

2. REASONS FOR STARTING THE PROJECT

a) Objectives

At present Turkomen have been almost entirely dependent on income produced through the sales of their carpets and rugs which for various reasons, explained later, are proving unmarketable. Silk weaving would generate income and in time would make the weavers self sufficient. The project would benefit not only men (who are wholly responsible for dyeing the silk yarn), but also women, both young and old, who are confined to their homes because of the 'Purdah' system. In addition, paraplegics and amputees could also benefit from this project. Through teaching and financial assistance the silk weaving project would:

i) Revitalise the ancient skill and tradition of 'Ikat'. (For a detailed explanation of the complicated technique of Ikat, please refer to the Appendix 'Ikats of Uzbekistan' by Bernard Dupeigne, translated from the French by Helena Beattie).

ii) Help the weavers produce a commodity which is more marketable than the rugs and carpets currently being produced in the camps.

iii) Give them a skill and knowledge that would be easily transportable back to Afghanistan.

b) <u>Need for assistance</u>

Since 1980, Turkomen refugees arriving in Pakistan have turned to rug and carpet weaving as a source of income. All members of the family are involved: men, women and children and weaving which is undertaken in the privacy of the home or courtyard on horizontal looms, helps to relieve the boredom and monotony of camp life. However problems have arisen with regard to the marketing of these rugs and carpets for a number of reasons:

i) Pakistan already has an established rug/carpet weaving industry of its own so with the addition of the weavings of the Turkomen, both the local and international markets have become saturated. As carpets continue to be woven inside Afghanistan and brought to Peshawar for sale, the supply exceeds the demand.

ii) These carpets woven inside Afghanistan are made with hand-spun wool from the KARAKUL sheep which is indigenous to northern Afghanistan. This wool, far superior to that obtained in Pakistan and dyed with subdued colours, such as the Beluch weavings from south-west Afghanistan, have more of an appeal to Western taste. Carpets woven in camps by Turkomen refugees are made from machine-spun wool obtained from the mills in Lahore. This wool often contains a mixture of 'dead' wool, i.e. wool removed from the animal carcase by means of placing it in a lime pit, and as a result it lacks lustre, is brittle and breaks easily. The end result is a carpet with a flat, dead look. Carpets therefore, produced inside Afghanistan are of better quality and are easier to sell both on the local and international market.

iii) Chemical dyes obtained locally are used in such a way as to produce colours which appear harsh and bright to western taste.

iv) Weavers have all but lost the knowledge of traditional designs and instead they now incorporate stylised symbols of war such as helicopter gunships and Mujahideen with Kalashnikovs, or adopt designs from Pakistani carpets.

As a result of the reasons mentioned, Turkomen carpets and rugs do not have an appeal outside Pakistan or for the expatriate community living in Peshawar and other parts of the country. In addition the world market is already saturated with rugs and carpets and recently UNHCR (United Nations High Commission for Refugees) have abandoned the weaving projects that they were funding because there was no market for the finished product. There is therefore an urgent need to assist this ethnic group to find an alternative method of earning an income.

3. DESCRIPTION OF ASSISTANCE

The silk weaving project will have to be divided into 2 programmes; first the weaving of plain and striped silk and secondly the weaving of Ikat. Assistance is principally required only for the weaving of the plain and striped silks, however the two are inextricably linked. As will be explained the project will be implemented over a number of phases:

a) WEAVING PROJECT

i) SHORT TERM (PHASE I)

During Phase I, a fully qualified silk weaver from the U.K.will start a training programme in the weaving of silk. In the first month, 6 weavers will be trained and one will be selected from this number to assist in finding and training more Afghan Refugees (AR's) to participate in the project. The trainees will come initially from Barakai Refugee Village (RV) Fazal II in Mardan District but efforts will be made to identify needy Turkomen families in other camps, such as Korassan. By the end of1987, some 50 Afghan Refugee silk weavers in the NWFP will have improved their average income from weaving silk by at least 50%.

ii) MID-TERM (PHASE II)

In Phase II, up to 250 new Afghan Refugees in NWFP will be included in the Project. By the end of 1988, up to 300 silk weavers (Primary Beneficiaries) will have improved their income from silk weaving by at least 50%.

iii) LONG-TERM OBJECTIVE (PHASE III)

By the end of 1989, AR silk weavers in the NWFP will earn more by selling silk through a self-financing marketing system.

b) THE WEAVING OF IKAT

At present it is almost impossible to give an exact number of refugees who will participate in this project because Master Dyers and Ikat Weavers have yet to be identified. The silk yarn together with the dyes will be distributed to refugees who have the knowledge of weaving Ikat, but the training of apprentices will be the sole responsibility of the refugees themselves. Assistance with regard to colours and designs (which are most marketable in the West) will be given by the staff of ARIN.

4. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

ARIN will provide 3 types of assistance to the AR silk weavers based on the research and previous studies of their ability to weave silk, and market research carried out in Pakistan and the UK:

i) Assistance will include colour charts (cartoons) so as to give the weavers guidance in producing cloth in colours which are acceptable to both the local and European market.

ii) Training will be given to the AR's by a fully qualified silk weaver from the UK.

iii) All silk yarn and weaving equipment will be purchased by ARIN and given to the weavers on a revolving loan scheme. Until Mater Dyers can be identified in the camps, initially all silk yarn will be dyed in Peshawar and then allocated to the weavers.

iv) ARIN will purchase and market the finished cloth.

5 PHASE I: Preparation and Initial Production and implementation proceedure.

a) Project Infrastructure

In Pakistan the ARIN silk weaving programme will by managed by:-

i) The Project Director (from the UK)

ii) The Project Manager " "

iii) The Project Officer " "

iv) An interpreter " "

ARIN will carry out a small pilot phase development project lasting between 3 and 6 months starting with a small number of AR silk weavers (6 in the first month) but expanding the number of weavers month by month. The Project Director (PD) will be responsible for the setting up of the project's structure and overall management during the first 6 months. The PD will then return to the UK to look after the marketing of the silk and the continuation of funding. The PD will hand over the responsibility of the running of the silk weaving project in Peshawar to the Project Manager.

The Project Manager (PM) together with the assistance of the Project Officer (PO) will be responsible for the training of Afghan refugees in the camp. For the first month, both the PM and the PO will go daily to the camp to carry out the training programme. During this time they will train 6 AR's as silk weavers and identify further AR's (estimated to be 6 per month) who wish to be trained in silk dyeing. To relieve some of the burden of overseeing the weaver's, an AR will be trained to assist the PM.

The Project Officer will be employed on a full-time basis for the first 6 months and thereafter on a part-time basis. The responsibilities of the PO will be to assist the PM in the camp during the inital training of AR's, to draw up colour charts, designs and cartoons and thereafter to assist in the marketing and publicity of the finished project.

An Afghan refugee will be employed as an interpreter (Farsi-English and Uzbek-English) to assist in the training programme in the camp.

To minimise costs, the office will be run from the same house in Peshawar which is used for the purposes of accommodation for ARIN staff.

b) Surveys

During the first 6 months of Phase I of the project, ARIN will survey RV's in NWFP in order to identify villages with skilled weavers capable of producing woven silk cloth. The survey will select weavers who are poor and most in need of programme assistance. Their skills and production capacity will be tested by producing trial samples.